



**U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)**

ECA Special Report



The fourth annual International Education Week comprised substantive programs and events that were made possible by the dedicated teamwork of Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs employees, U.S. embassy personnel worldwide, program participants and alumni, and our many partners in the international exchange community, particularly the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of International Education (IIE). We were all especially proud of the ECA Exchange Fair held in Washington, DC, and the inspiring remarks of Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, who participated in that event with CultureConnect Ambassador Mary Wilson. Media coverage of the week, as a result of the initiative and support of the Department's Bureau of International Information Programs and Bureau of Public Affairs, as well as ECA's Office of Outreach, exceeded that of previous years.

In a statement announcing the week (<http://exchanges.state.gov/iew/statements/powell.htm>), Secretary Powell said: "International education, learning about other cultures and languages through study, living overseas, and interacting with people of other countries promotes the free exchange of ideas, allows us to seek joint solutions to problems, and helps create lasting partnerships to meet our shared concerns."

Secretary of Education Rod Paige in an official statement (<http://exchanges.state.gov/iew/statements/paige.htm>), declared International Education Week "a time to celebrate the diversity of America and of the many other cultures, languages and traditions comprising our global community."

To date, reports reflect that more than 1,000 International Education Week events were held in 83 countries and 46 U.S. states, including Guam and Washington, DC, with a regional breakdown as follows:

- 🌍 Africa = 17 countries
- 🌍 Europe & Eurasia = 34 countries
- 🌍 South Asia = 4 countries
- 🌏 East Asia & Pacific = 8 countries
- 🌏 Middle East & North Africa = 4 countries
- 🌎 The Americas = 16 countries
- 🇺🇸 United States = 46 states, including Guam and Washington, DC

This report presents a sampling of International Education Week activities, which we hope will inspire greater involvement in international education and exchange.

Secretary Powell has said, “Together we can build a more peaceful and prosperous world.” I join him in encouraging U.S. citizens to study and engage in programs in order to better understand another country and its people. Informed citizens can be bridges from their communities to individuals and societies abroad, to demonstrate American values, promote mutual understanding and respect, and gain priceless insights to enrich their lives and their nation.

Patricia S. Harrison
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From left: Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison, CultureConnect Ambassador Mary Wilson, Deputy Secretary Richard Armitage, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas Farrell tour the ECA Exchange Fair, as part of the U.S. Department of State’s celebration of International Education Week 2003.

Major ECA Activities

Hawai'i's International Education Week Begins with Lessons in Gratitude

On November 13, Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison addressed 300 elementary school students at the East-West Center in Honolulu to launch Hawai'i's International Education Week. The children, through workshops and other activities, focused on how different countries express thanks or gratitude—for a good harvest, or for the New Year, or the birth of a child. The entire world was represented in a bustling activity room — from African to Indian, Asian, Latin American, and Middle Eastern customs. Following a Hawai'i'an blessing complete with traditional drums, the Assistant Secretary asked the children to raise their hands if they had ever known a person from another country. Nearly 300 hands shot skyward.



Above: Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison joins children in a cultural workshop at the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawai'i, to launch the state's International Education Week celebration.



Left: Students offer a Hawai'i'an blessing complete with traditional drums.

"Open Doors 2003" Report Cites Slight Increase in International Students at U.S. Schools

In conjunction with International Education Week, "Open Doors 2003," an Institute of International Education (IIE) survey funded by ECA, was the topic of a National Press Club-hosted press briefing on November 17. According to the survey, International student enrollment in accredited U.S. colleges and universities rose slightly in the 2002-2003 academic year to more than 586,000; the 2002-2003 total was up less than 1 percent from 2001-2002, in contrast to a 6-percent growth in enrollment the previous academic year. About 45 percent report a decline in students from abroad on their campuses this year, while 36 percent report increases. China, South Korea, India, and Japan send the greatest numbers of students to study in the United States; enrollees from these countries compose 20 percent of the total number of foreign students in the United States.

Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison, who spoke at the briefing, emphasized the social and cultural value of international student exchange. "We're building relationships and we're building societies," she said. Acknowledging that the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks heightened security concerns about foreign visitors, she noted that the Department

of State and Department of Homeland Security are working in tandem to convey the message that students are welcome in the United States, even as they clarify U.S. entry requirements and address misperceptions about the difficulty of the visa application process.

States Institute on International Education in the Schools Observes International Education Week

On November 17, Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison addressed the States Institute on International Education in the Schools in Washington, DC, as part of its International Education Week observance. “We cannot waste the lives of our young people or the lives of any young person, wherever he or she lives, at a time when they are open and eager and ready to accumulate knowledge and find their place in the world,” she said. (The full transcript of Assistant Secretary Harrison’s speech is available at <http://exchanges.state.gov/news/2003/november17.htm>.)

Bureau Sponsors Educational Partnership Proposal Development Workshop

ECA’s Office of Global Programs, Institutional Linkages Programs, in coordination with the Academy for Educational Development (AED), held an all-day workshop November 17 - November 18 to assist U.S. institutions of higher education that have not previously been active in the partnerships program to develop competitive proposals for partnerships with counterparts in the Muslim world.

ECA Celebrates “Partnerships” with Exchange Fair at State Department Exhibit Hall

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs’ Exchange Fair, held on November 18, attracted several hundred exhibit-goers to the Harry S. Truman Building Exhibit Hall in Washington, DC. The Fair — which was designed around the theme “Partnerships” and comprised more than 20 exhibit tables featuring videos, interactive maps, slide shows, books and a treasure trove of written information — demonstrated the positive difference exchange programs make for our country both overseas and at home, and highlighted the full range of exchanges and educational activities that ECA manages. [View the online Exchange Fair Photo Gallery at <http://exchanges.state.gov/iew/slideshow/index.htm>.]

More than 30 exchange participants and alumni participated to discuss their experience in fostering international mutual understanding and respect. The participants included visiting high school students, graduate students, and mid-career professionals from 11 countries, as well as U.S. teachers, host family members, and host organization representatives. The Office of Citizen Exchanges table, for example, featured students from Beijing No. 2 Middle School in China, who are in Washington as part of a youth exchange program with Benjamin Banneker Academic High School.

The visitors and ECA staff were greeted by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs Patricia Harrison, and rhythm and blues artist Mary Wilson, formerly of the legendary Motown group The Supremes, who today represents the State Department as a CultureConnect Ambassador reaching out to young people in other countries.

Deputy Secretary Armitage said, “At a time when we still have some fear from 9/11, it's particularly good policy to be reaching out and touching people and showing them the innate goodness of our nation,” he said.

“I envy you, each and every one of you. Since we had the difficulties on that terrible, beautiful September day of 9/11, much of our nation, which used to export hope and optimism, has been exporting our fears and our anger at what happened to us. And ECA has been not going in that direction, has been reaching out, trying to increase understanding, trying to reach out and bring visitors in and send Americans overseas, whether it's the Fulbright or the Citizens Exchange, or the Humphrey, or YES...I envy that, because you've had, for the last three years, an uplifting and extraordinarily energizing, I believe, job to do, and you've done it so magnificently and so well.”

Deputy Secretary Richard L. Armitage to the staff of ECA, November 18, 2003



Wilson, who delighted her audience with a brief *a capella* rendition of the classic “Stop – In the Name of Love,” recalled how back in the 1950s she and the other original members of The Supremes, “three little black girls living in the projects, dared to dream that their dreams would come true. But here in America I can tell you that dreams do come true.”

The exchange students and ECA program alumni participating in the Exchange Fair, who were all eager to share their thoughts and experiences, spoke with journalists and exhibit visitors throughout the event. Noting that they are impressed by the friendliness and openness of the American people and by the diversity of U.S. society, they stressed that they will inform family, friends, and colleagues back home that the real America is not the one they see on TV shows and in movies or hear about from politicians.

“STOP – In the Name of Love”...

Addressing the staff and guests at the ECA Exchange Fair, former ‘Supreme’ Mary Wilson, breaks into song when recalling her experience as an ECA CultureConnect Ambassador in South America.

“We're all people, and we all have the same problems and the same dreams, even though we live in different countries and speak different languages.”

A 15-year-old Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program participant from Turkmenistan, who is spending an academic year in Pennsylvania, to a journalist at the ECA Exchange Fair during International Education Week 2003.

“It is like meeting the whole world in this program.”

Michael Njong, a human rights specialist and Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program participant from Cameroon, studying at the American University Washington College of Law, speaking at the ECA Exchange Fair about the valuable contacts he is making with other professionals in the United States and from many different countries.

State Department Holds "It's Academic" Special Edition

To celebrate International Education Week, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Public Affairs in partnership with the World Affairs Council sponsored an international edition of the longest running quiz program "It's Academic," held in the Loy Henderson Conference Room at Department of State headquarters.

"It's Academic," which airs every Saturday morning on Washington, DC-area television pits three teams of top-notch students from local secondary schools in a wide-ranging knowledge competition. In its 43rd consecutive year, the quiz show holds the longevity record acknowledged in the Guinness Book of World Records. The special State Department edition, offering an international twist in terms of participants and content, was filmed before an audience of approximately 350, mostly schoolmates of competitors

Addressing the audience before the program began, Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison spoke about the value of international student exchanges even in our era of instant communication, citing some of the myths propagated by popular culture that can be overcome through international exchange. She also discussed the "hope gap," a concept developed by the Queen Rania of Jordan regarding young people with no hope for the future who grow up receptive to extremism — in contrast to those who grow up in environments where leaders support them and their dreams, who represent a brighter future for the world. Exchanges of young people, the Assistant Secretary noted, "tilt minds dramatically in the direction of hope."

James Callahan of the State Department's Recruitment Office also spoke, urging the hundreds of young people to consider careers in the civil and foreign services and State Department Spokesman Adam Ereli conducted a history quiz, throwing out prizes to audience members who ably demonstrated their knowledge of the department's history and organization.

The competitors for the special "It's Academic" program were teams of students from the Islamic Saudi Academy, the French International School, and three students from typical Washington-area high schools grouped as the "American Schools" team. The question topics comprised international affairs, history, geography, and current events. When show host Mac McGarry posed the first set of questions, dealing with events of 2003, the Islamic Saudi Academy took the lead, knowing that Shirin Ebadi of Iran won this year's Nobel Peace Prize, that British soccer star David Beckham had signed with Madrid Real, and that 2003 marked the 50th anniversary of the first human ascent of Mt. Everest. While the lead changed hands more than once, the American Schools team was victorious with a score of 525 points to 445 for the French International School and 425 for the Islamic Saudi Academy.



Three students from Washington-area high schools, grouped as the "American Schools" team, competed and won the "It's Academic" competition with a score of 525 points to 445 for the French International School and 425 for the Islamic Saudi Academy.

New Century Scholars Present Remedies for Civil and International Conflict

An international team of 30 Fulbright Scholars specializing in peace and conflict issues presented to the public their remedies for civil and international conflict during the Fulbright New Century Scholars' Final Plenary Seminar, "Fanning the Flames, Putting out the Fire: Ethnic Conflicts and the Peace Process" on November 19, at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington.

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants and Fulbright U.S. Student Alumni Convene

On November 21, Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas A. Farrell opened the workshop "Sharing and Extending the Fulbright Experience" by calling on Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program fellows and U.S. student alumni to use their positions as young ambassadors to reach out to U.S. communities and share their Fulbright experience. Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison also addressed the more than 70 Fulbrighters after which she and Deputy Assistant Secretary Farrell engaged the



participants in a spirited discussion about the importance of sharing the Fulbright experience with their U.S. communities. Fellows and alumni shared their outreach experiences, including campus presentations, speeches to community groups and involvement in global education programs in local schools.

Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison and Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas Farrell lead a discussion on the importance of sharing the Fulbright experience with U.S. communities during the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant and Fulbright U.S. Student Alumni Workshop in Washington, DC, November 21, 2003.

Russian Young Leaders Dedicate Luncheon to International Education Week

Twenty-five Russians in the United States for a yearlong fellowship at U.S. universities under the Russian Young Leaders Fellowship Program dedicated their Mid-Year Workshop luncheon to International Education Week 2003. Officials from the U.S. Department of Education and Department of State addressed them about the celebratory activities and long-term goals of the week.

America Celebrates

Reports on a host of International Education Week celebrations in America, carried out by K-12 schools, higher education institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and the U.S. government are available at <http://exchanges.state.gov/iew/events.htm>. The following are selected highlights.

FLEX, YES, and CBYX Students Present Their Countries and Cultures in America's Classrooms

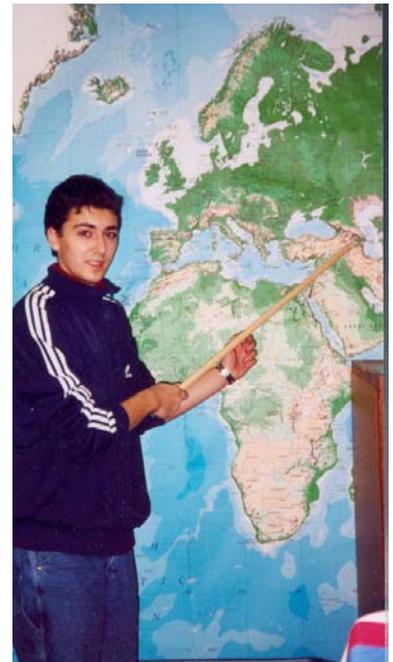
Throughout International Education Week, nearly 1400 students from the former Soviet Union participating in the Department of State's Future Leaders



This FLEX student from Yakutiya, Russia, wearing her national costume, gives an International Education Week presentation about Yakutiya at her host school, Declo High School in Declo, Idaho, as well as at a local Mormon church. The student, who plans to be a journalist, has been writing about events for a local Future Farmers of America chapter.

Exchange (FLEX) Program, as well as 300 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange German high school students and 129 Youth Exchange Studies (YES) students from the Arab and Islamic world made presentations about their countries at their U.S. host schools.

This FLEX student from Armenia gives an International Education Week presentation to the entire student body of Harmony High School in Farmington, Iowa.



Pakistani YES Student Wins AYUSA International Education Week Contest

"This past week has been very fun and exciting. Having the opportunity meet many different people and talk to them about my country has been a wonderful experience," said an ECA YES (Youth Exchange Studies) student from Pakistan, upon being selected as the winner of the AYUSA International Education Week Contest for her exemplary cultural presentations and activities. AYUSA Global Youth Exchange, an ECA grantee organization, sponsored the contest to reward outstanding projects carried out by high school exchange students studying in the United States, which ranged from classroom presentations to homemade DVDs promoting international education to volunteerism.

Every day during International Education Week, the winning student, who attends school in Atlanta, Georgia, wore a

different Shalwaz Kameez – the traditional Pakistan outfit and participated in promoting not only her own country, but spreading the word about international education in a variety of ways. She volunteered at the Atlanta Children's Shelter, spoke to three classes at her host sister's elementary school, hosted an International Potluck, wrote a speech about education in Pakistan that was read during her school's morning announcements, organized a presentation table about Pakistan as part of the Cultural Diversity Program at Decatur High School, and wrote an article for the paper that will be published in December.

The student's participation in the Partnerships for Learning YES exchange initiative exemplifies a goal of ECA to reach into lower socio-economic levels of society. As the AYUSA International Education Week Contest winner, she will receive a trip on Explore America Tours. Explore America is a leading provider of educational tours for international students and arranges interactive and adventurous travel programs to destinations including New York, California and Hawaii.



A Pakistani YES student (left) and a Syrian exchange student team up to make an International Education Week 2003 presentation to 4th graders at Mary Lin Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia. They addressed three classes comprising 60 students that day.

"I was amazed at how the children were able to say *Hello* in Urdu after just one try," the Pakistani student reports.

ECA International Visitors Make International Classroom Presentations at DC Public Schools

In an effort to extend the International Classroom, throughout International Education Week, 16 participants in the International Visitor Program spoke in ten Washington DC public schools on topics ranging from journalism in Thailand to economic development in Poland to preventing drug trafficking in Croatia to the government system in Uruguay. This initiative was arranged by Meridian International Center.

Celebrations Worldwide

Reports on hundreds of International Education Week celebrations carried out by embassies, Fulbright Commissions, and nongovernmental organizations around the world are available at <http://exchanges.state.gov/iew/events.htm>. The following are selected highlights.

“Nation of Immigrants” Presented in Guayaquil

The Public Affairs Section in Guayaquil worked with the Fulbright Commission and U.S. exchange students in Ecuador’s largest city to ensure a vibrant representation of U.S. culture and educational opportunities at the annual “Study Abroad” fair, hosted by the Espiritu Santo University. In conjunction with the use of the Bureau of International Information Programs-produced paper show, the theme of the booth was “The U.S. – A Nation of Immigrants.” Five U.S. students studying in Guayaquil helped staff the U.S.A. stand, three donning costumes representing traditional dress — a Native American, a Pilgrim and our 50th state’s famous grass skirt.

U.S. students participate in a “Study Abroad Fair” sponsored by PAS Guayaquil, Ecuador, the Fulbright Commission, and Espiritu Santo University during International Education Week 2003.



AMIDEAST Joins U.S. Consulate Jerusalem to Promote International Education in West Bank and Gaza

The U.S. Consulate Jerusalem and the AMIDEAST office in El Bireh held a four-day program for the West Bank and Gaza audience to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. Presentations and event topics included the Benefits of International Educational Exchange and American Higher Education; New U.S. Visa Procedures; Scholarship Opportunities in the U.S. and Scholarship Programs Administered by AMIDEAST; Services and Students’ Future University Plans; English Language and Professional Skills Training Programs of AMIDEAST; Tips from a U.S. Graduate on “How to Win a Scholarship and be a Successful Student;” as well as a daily College Fair to review catalogues, books and flyers.

Public Affairs New Delhi Arranges Jazz Education Activities

On November 21, the Cultural Affairs Office of U.S. Embassy New Delhi organized a two-hour jazz workshop at the American Center, focused on the basic components that contribute to jazz improvisation. Fifty musicians brought their instruments and jammed with the Sunny Jain Collective, which has been in India to participate in recent Mumbai and New Delhi jazz festivals. (Sunny Jain, a 2002 Jazz Ambassador, is a member of the jazz education team at the Lincoln Center in New York.) A second jazz appreciation workshop was conducted on November 22 for fans attending the Sunny Jain Collective concert at Neemrana Fort-Palace Hotel in Rajasthan.

Zambian High Schoolers Focus on U.S. Educational Opportunities

The American Embassy - Public Affairs Section in Lusaka hosted 50 final grade pupils from three local high schools — International school of Lusaka, Baobab College, and



Lake Road School — for a U.S. undergraduate admissions PowerPoint presentation and a college essay writing workshop offered by Mwangala Mboo, the Information Resource Center Assistant/Acting Educational Advisor.

James Garry, the embassy's Deputy Consular Officer and Political Officer conducted a question and answer session on student visas with the students.

Lusaka high school students attend an International Education Week 2003 event sponsored by the U.S. Embassy - Public Affairs Section.

U.S. Ambassador Conducts Online Chat with Armenian Students

U.S. Ambassador John Ordway conducted a one-hour online chat with 45 students and teachers from 12 secondary schools throughout Armenia that are part of ECA's Armenia School Connectivity Program. During the chat, he addressed student and faculty inquiries about the importance of international education, U.S. exchange programs, similarities and differences in U.S. and Armenian education systems, the Internet as an important tool for education, and other issues. "Schools are the place where the process of learning about the world begins," Ambassador Ordway wrote. "The Internet now offers many more possibilities to gain direct knowledge about other people and their cultures and languages. But the most important thing is for students to seek knowledge about other cultures." ALM TV (privately-owned, with three million potential viewers) aired a positive report on the event in their primetime newscast, which included an exclusive interview with Ambassador Ordway on the topic of international education.



U.S. Ambassador John Ordway celebrates International Education Week by conducting an online chat with 45 students and teachers from 12 secondary schools throughout Armenia that are participating in the ECA-sponsored Armenia School Connectivity Program.

FLEX Alumni Share American Culture in Odessa

Eight Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) alumni in Odessa, Ukraine, used the platform of International Education Week to host a Thanksgiving dinner on November 20 for parents of FLEX students who are currently in the United States. The alumni, applying the FLEX goal of sharing American culture and traditions with those in their home countries, shared the traditional turkey, gravy, and stuffing and answered questions from the parents about American culture and customs, and the Thanksgiving holiday that their children would experience the following week.

Consulate, Fellows, and Dignitaries Promote International Education Week in Russian Far East

In the first of several events observing International Education Week in the region, Senior English Language Fellows Jennifer Crandall and Kevin McCaughey joined Vladivostok Consul General Spratlen and representatives from the Consulates of Korea, New Zealand, Germany, and Japan at the Far Eastern State Technical University in Vladivostok. Among the dozen educational organizations present were American Councils, IREX and the Vladivostok American Corner. Seventy local students and teachers filled the auditorium to hear of international opportunities abroad and in Russia.

U.S. Ambassador to Korea Hosts Presidents of Korean Chapters of U.S. University Alumni Associations

U.S. Ambassador to Korea Thomas C. Hubbard hosted a luncheon, organized by the Embassy Public Affairs Section, for 30 presidents of Korean chapters of U.S. university alumni associations. The guests were leaders in key sectors in Korean society, including business, academia and law.



U.S. Ambassador to Korea Thomas C. Hubbard hosts a lunch for representatives of Korean Chapters of U.S. University Alumni Associations at his residence, November 19, 2003. Left to Right: President LEE Heegook, LG Electronics Inc. (Stanford University); Dr. PARK Seong Yawng, Honorary Chairman of Kumho Group (Yale University); Ambassador Hubbard; President SONU Jungho, Myungji University (University of Colorado); Attorney WOO Chang Rok, Yoolcheon Law Office (University of Washington).

International Education Week has just ended, and in this fourth year of global education programs, which involve teachers and students and leaders from business, industry and government worldwide, we are affirming that among people of goodwill, education is a common value. These events took place from Africa to the Americas, Europe, Eurasia, East Asia, the Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, and men and women highlighting a critical need providing young people, the successor generation, with the educational tools they need to become contributors to society – builders of communities...We've got to begin this process of mutual respect and understanding at much earlier ages...Through our programs, we are reaching out to the Muslim world...We want to reach out to a younger, deeper, wider population. We want people to know who we are, and we want to know who they are — beyond the distortion of headlines.

Assistant Secretary Patricia S. Harrison, addressing journalists at the Washington Foreign Press Center, November 25, 2003.

Assistant Secretary Puts a Fine Point on International Education Week, Looks Ahead to Partnerships for Learning Conference in Istanbul

Briefing journalists on November 25 about "The Role of International Education in the Struggle Against Terrorism" at the Washington Foreign Press Center, Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison provided a wrap-up International Education Week and underscored the importance of international education to U.S. and global interests. She emphasized the importance of reaching out to younger populations to foster mutual respect and understanding at much earlier ages.

The Assistant Secretary announced the first Partnerships for Learning Conference, to be held in early 2004 in Turkey, and hinted that a new Sister City program will involve Istanbul.

Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Harrison wraps up International Education Week with a briefing on "The Role of International Education in the Struggle Against Terrorism," Washington Foreign Press Center, November 25, 2003.



For more information about International Education Week, visit <http://exchanges.state.gov/iew>.

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